

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 24, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4 through line 21 with:

Switch unit 15 is over-dimensioned for the switching requirements of node 20i and it defines, in case of failure, some interconnections which are not operatively used. For example, while the receiving transponder  $RXT_1(\lambda_x)$  is connected to the receiver  $Rx_2$  under normal operating conditions, no connection is needed for the receiving transponder  $RXT_1(\lambda_x)$  in case of failure on the external ring 2 on the right-hand side of node 20i (since no signal is received from this side). Taking into consideration this over-dimensioning of the switch unit functionality, it is possible to use, in place of the 2x2 switch type unit, other unit architectures which optimizes the number of interconnections in relation to the functional requirements. ~~The~~ An interconnection requirements example in node 20i under both normal and failure conditions (i.e., for working and protection) is summarized in the following table:

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	$Rx_1$	$Rx_2$	$TXT_1(\lambda_x)$	$TXT_1(\lambda_y)$	$TXT_2(\lambda_x)$	$TXT_2(\lambda_y)$
$TX_1$			W		P	
$TX_2$				P		W
$RXT_1(\lambda_x)$		W				
$RXT_1(\lambda_y)$	P			<u>PW</u>		
$RXT_2(\lambda_x)$		P			<u>PW</u>	
$RXT_2(\lambda_y)$	W					

W=Working

P=Protection